



Price of a barrel of petroleum
US\$ 59.89
↓ 0.52

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS
HOSTILE ACTS



Lisa Ling, the sister of imprisoned journalist Laura Ling, wipes her eye during a rally at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Thursday, July 9, 2009. More than 250 people gathered at a vigil in support of Laura Ling and fellow journalist Euna Lee who were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor by North Korea for entering the country illegally and "hostile acts."

See World News Page B8

SPORTS NEWS
KERR-AGEOUS



Cristie Kerr waves to gallery after putting out on the 10th hole during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament, Friday, July 10, 2009, at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pa.

See Sports Today Page 11

HEINEKEN GREEN VILLAGE tonight July 11th, 2009

Mainstreet SAN NICOLAS turns GREEN for the Night!



SAN NICOLAS - Heineken and I Love Muzika productions teamed up again to deliver yet another much anticipated installment of Heineken Green City. The whole main street of San Nicolas will be closed off tonight and will feature 3 Areas with all music imaginable with a GREAT line up.

Continued on Next Page




CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE
THE TWIX MIX
IN THE NEW McFLURRY



Mainstreet SAN NICOLAS turns GREEN for the Night!



Continued from Front Page
The line up includes bands and DJ'S like: LE GROOVE BASIC ONE DATAPANIK ISIS BAND DJ FUNKY JUNCTION (milan/miami) THEO SANDERS DJ PACO

(curacao) EXIDE MUSIC DJ BIG RIG and much much more. Besides the musical artists we also have street entertainers and best of all: HEINEKEN Af! 5.00 ALL NIGHT!

Get your Green Village passes for only AFL 15.00 at one of the following places: HEINEKEN OFFICE SPARE TIME - ROYAL PLAZA SPARE TIME - SAN NICOLAS.

Please be advised that there are only presale tickets available, and there are ONLY 5000 of them. ONLY 5.000 TICKETS AVAILABLE NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR Secure your ticket beforehand



Introduction price only 15 Awg. Ticket + official Green Village T-shirt 35 Awg. Pictures are from last year's event in Downtown Oranjestad. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



Be part of history with Coca Colas 60th year anniversary



ORANJESTAD - After the much awaited and successful parade organized last Sunday by Coca Cola in connection with Tropical Bottling Company 60th anniversary, they officially launched their commemorative 8 ounce



Coca Cola bottle.

This bottle promises to be part of some of the few collector's Items on the Island seeing that it is not everyday a company in Aruba celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Get yours at your favorite

supermarket and watch out for adds in your news paper in order to find out where you can get these seeing how the demand for this special commemorative bottles are limited, be part of history today and get yours today.

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Thirsty Thursday at Chaos

Acoustic Sound strikes an interactive note



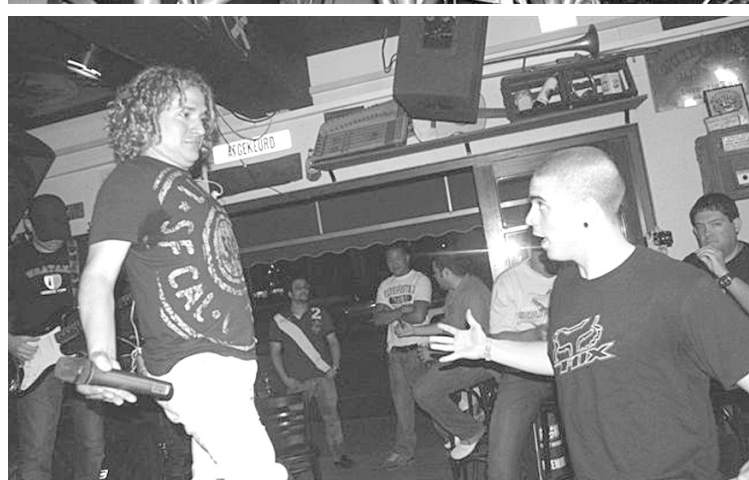
ORANJESTAD – The idea of having a mellow, laid back evening flew out the door as the crowd gathered at Chaos café Thursday evening was edgy and restless and required a different kind of music, says singer Jairo Boekhoudt.

In collaborations with his talented fellow-musicians Armin Solognier – his guitar was smokin' – cool Angelo Kock and blazing Jeremy Bonarriba, the band visited Madonna, Michael Jackson, Led Zeppelin,



U2, Guns & Roses & Metallica with Jairo performing his unusual blend of leaps & jumps, his favorite stage acrobatic, curls flying, fans singing, beer flowing, bar hopping, chandeliers swinging . . . The show became louder and wilder, until 2 a.m., when the bartenders called it a quits.

Thirsty Thursday was a lot of fun at Chaos café. □



New menu for hot Mambo Jambo



ORANJESTAD - Mambo Jambo in the Royal Plaza Mall downtown does not need an introduction. Everyone knows that there is always a lot of fun to be had at the top of the stairs. Most people come to Mambo Jambo to have a few drinks, meet new friends and enjoy the music. But there is more: Mambo Jambo now has a new menu. So it's high time to check out the popular place's food and drinks; you'll

like them!

On the menu are Soups, Salads, Wraps, Sandwiches, Burgers, Specialties and Snacks. Think of chicken tortilla, Aruban fish soup, Monterrey chicken salad, a steak sandwich, a spicy shrimp wrap, fajitas, pinchos, nachos and salsa, japaleño poppers, quesalilla de pollo, a pizza or a Mambo snack platter and you will get hungry straight away.

If you combine the above with cocktails, daiquiris, non-frozen drinks, smoothies, beers, shooters and Martinis, we bet that you will be half-way to heaven already.

Photos show scenes during the Full Moon party, which was held recently at Mambo Jambo.

The bar is a Member of the Aruba Wine and Dine group.



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At the Hard Rock Café in the South Beach Mall

Marisela & The Aquarius Band live in concert tonight!



PALM BEACH – Tonight, the popular singer / artist Marisela will be performing live in the Hard Rock Café together with the Aquarius Band.

The evening will start after dinner at 9:30 p.m. Hard Rock Café is kickin' back rock 'n' roll style in Aruba. Located in the heart of the Dutch Caribbean, Aruba has long been regarded by visitors from around

the world as the perfect destination to chill out and melt away all your cares.

Hard Rock Aruba offers a brand new Café on the Palm Beach hotel strip with a 360 plus seating capacity in our indoor dining room or outside terrace, a live music stage, and Rock Shop filled with our famous collectibles.

Priceless memorabilia ranging from world famous artists like the Beach Boys to more contemporary rockers like Metallica adorns our walls, and our friendly staff waits, to transform you into raving Hard Rock Aruba fans with cocktails and specialties from our world famous menu. It's all here... at the Hard Rock Café Aruba. Join us. ☐



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 pm
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686. ☐



Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably priced snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among

other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban

florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone: 5877710 or 5932660 ☐



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At the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival

Top-notch saxophonist David Sanborn is performing live on Aruba!



ORANJESTAD - "David Sanborn has been confirmed. We have paid his fee and have received confirmation that he is coming to Aruba to play on Friday, September 4," says a jubilant Eric Jan Eman, organizer of the annual Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival on Aruba. Eman is more than a little bit happy: David Sanborn is one of the greatest alto

saxophonists in the world. This 7-time Grammy Award winner is a top act, and his appearance on Plaza Cas di Cultura has been made possible through joint cooperation between jazz lover Peter Steinmetz of the AAA, the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and the Aruba Hotel And Tourism Association (AHATA). David Sanborn (1945) has

been playing the sax since before he was in high school. Diagnosed with polio at a young age, his physician urged him to take up playing the saxophone to strengthen his weakened lungs and chest muscles. Throughout his distinguished career he has played genres ranging from pop to blues and everything in between. Although he is often identified with 'Smooth Jazz', this is not what David wants to be known for.

Numerous awards, among them seven Grammy Awards, have been the stamp of approval of millions of jazz lovers, but David Sanborn has done much more than performing and making CD's. He has composed, written film scorings (among others for Lethal Weapon and Scrooged) and he has acted in various movies. Well-known guest appearances were with David Bowie, Roger Daltrey of The Who and The Allman Brothers.

Those who wish to buy tickets for David Sanborn's performance can do this on-line via www.caribbeanseajazz.com, at MooMba Beach, at Superfood or at Cliffix. Tickets cost US 32.—; 'early birds' get them



for US 25.—for either Friday or Saturday. A weekend pass is US 52.— at the gate or US 43.—in advance. On Friday evening Curaçao's darling Issaline is launching her new

CD on Aruba inside Cas di Cultura as well. As there are only 550 seats, please get there early if you wish to see her live on stage. On Saturday Issaline performs outside. □

The Excelsior Casino Winner's Circle



Everyone is a winner at the Excelsior Casino. The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. The beautiful Excelsior Casino will satisfy your taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack can



be delt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. The Excelsior Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-

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Jo Ann & Paul exchange rings & vows at Sunset



PALM BEACH - Jo Ann & Paul Mc Cluskey exchanged rings and vows as the sun gently set into the sea last



night on the beach at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. Rev. Geoffrey officiated the toes-in-the sand ceremony witnessed by their children their parents.

After placing a ring on the others finger and reading their vows of commitment to one another, the couple said I do and then signed the official documents. The intimate ceremony ended with a champagne and the cutting of the wedding cake.

The beach blessing was coordinated by Desiree Biker of the Aruba Marriott



Resort and executed by her professional events team. Congratulations to Jo Ann & Paul from Aruba Today and

may you celebrate all your anniversaries at your home away from home Aruba. ☐

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



No solution found yet in FZOG, SMMC saga

~ Doubt about integration of FZOG into SVB ~

PHILIPSBURG -- The Windward Island Teachers Union (WITU) and the ABVO labour union Council of Pensioners called a press conference Wednesday morning to voice their concerns on the ongoing saga with the FZOG healthcare fund for retired civil servants.

WITU President Claire Elshot said a solution had been sought in payment by FZOG of some NAf.600,000 in arrears to St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC). SMMC management had announced last week that it was giving FZOG until July 6 make this payment and would only accept the FZOG cards in cases of emergency if FZOG failed to live up to this request.

Elshot stated that a payment agreement had been arranged between the Social Insurance Bank SVB and SMMC, but SMMC Director Dr. George Scot said this was not the case. He said SMMC had merely received a letter from the Inspectorate of Health challenging SMMC's decision. Scot said a response to the inspectorate would be submitted in the form of an advertisement in the local media.

He further explained that a verdict from the court permitted SMMC's ban on accepting the FZOG cards, which do not guarantee payment.

He said FZOG had not made payments since August 2008 and to cover its necessary expenditures SMMC needed to be paid the money owed to it. He reiterated that SMMC would continue to accept FZOG cards only in case of emergency.

Elshot said on behalf of the unions that such a statement should be denounced, as it

was a blatant threat to the human rights of individuals. The unions had requested FZOG card holders who had been refused assistance at SMMC as of July 6 to report such incidents.

Elshot said that based on reports, several other problem areas in connection with the FZOG healthcare package had been discovered. These included card-holders not receiving proper referrals off-island and not being reimbursed for medical expenses paid up front.

With the already bare-bone package offered to the FZOG card holders the unions are questioning whether the proposed "structural solution" brought forward by the parliament to integrate FZOG into SVB would be the best alternative.

The unions are of the opinion that during such integration there would be many cutbacks to the package offered by FZOG, as experienced in the past.

The unions pointed out that the pension fund had been shifted around from administrator to administrator for years, starting off at with Minister of Finance, then under the responsibility of the APNA pension fund, then under BZV, and finally SVB.

ABVO labour union Council of Pensioners First Vice President Raymond Jessurun said equality in the healthcare system needed to be exercised to stop such inconsistencies towards pensioners who rightfully deserved the highest attainable level of healthcare.

Therefore the unions are of the opinion that pensioners need to be reintegrated into the same programme as the active civil servants,

paying the same premium or jointly paying even less than they are being forced to pay now. Jessurun noted that pensioners were paying some 10 per cent of their pension income to healthcare, while the government contribution is only 2.1 per cent.

The unions are scheduling a meeting with the Executive Council for August at the earliest to discuss the Island Government's role in contributing to adequate care of pensioners, as well as the proposed national healthcare system in the

new country status and the unions' views on the integration of FZOG into SVB.

Jessurun reiterated the need for the community at large to be educated on its human rights. He noted the Kingdom Charter, which emphasised that government was responsible for ensuring that citizens received equally the highest level of medical care.

Resting on this concern Jessurun suggested that the Dutch Kingdom step in to ensure equality in health care and afford St.

Maarten and Curaçao the same standard of healthcare that is being prepared for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. He said that while the BES islands remained a part of the Netherlands Antilles the rest of the Antilles should be treated with the same respect.

A meeting with the unions representing the private sector has been scheduled for this coming Saturday to discuss their take on the proposed integration of FZOG into SVB. □





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A worker prepares for a news conference in Phnom Penh June 25, 2009.

REUTERS/Chor Sokunthea/Files

Obesity a risk factor in swine flu?

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA – Some swine flu cases in Michigan are raising questions about obesity's role in why some people with infections become seriously ill.

A high proportion of those who have gotten severely ill from swine flu have been obese or extremely obese, but health officials have said that might be due to the fact that heavy people tend to have asthma and other conditions that make them more susceptible. Obesity alone has never been seen as a risk factor for seasonal flu.

But in a report released Friday, health officials detailed the cases of 10 Michigan patients who were very sick from swine flu in late May and early June and ended up at a specialized hospital in Ann Arbor. Three of them died.

Nine of the 10 were either obese or extremely obese. Only three of the 10 had other health problems. Two of the three that died had no other health conditions.

This hardly settles the question of whether obesity is its own risk factor for swine flu.

It's possible the patients had undiagnosed heart problems or other unidentified conditions.

Still the finding was striking, investigators acknowledged.

Also remarkable were that five of the patients developed blood clots in their lungs, and six had kidney failure. Those complications have been seen in some swine flu patients before, but not usually in such a high proportion.

"Clinicians need to be aware that severe complications can occur in patients with the novel H1N1 virus, particularly in extremely obese patients," said Dr. Tim Uyeki, a flu expert at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Uyeki was a co-author of the report, released by a CDC publication, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Also on Friday, the CDC said the number of U.S. swine flu cases has surpassed 37,000 and deaths have risen to 211.

The numbers rose from the 170 deaths and nearly 34,000 confirmed and suspected swine flu cases reported last week.

Those are lab-confirmed and probable infections. CDC officials believe those cases — which sought treatment and underwent testing — are just the tip of the iceberg. They estimate more than 1 million Americans have been infected with the virus so far, though many probably had only a mild illness.

Swine flu is the predominant flu type circulating currently, with nine states reporting widespread cases, down from 10 a week ago.

The pandemic was first identified in California in April. Since then a total of more than 94,000 cases have been reported in more than 100 countries, according to the World Health Organization. □

End for HIV Travel Ban

By Neal Broverman

The federal government has taken a bureaucratic step that will finally remove restrictions that barred HIV-positive travelers from visiting the United States.

Regulations have been issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to lift restrictions against nonimmigrant visas for people with HIV/AIDS. The move comes more than a year after Congress passed, and Bush signed into law, a bill that repealed the 22-year-old ban on HIV-positive visitors.

Even after Bush had signed the bill, HIV-positive visitors were still being denied entry to the United States on the basis of their infection. The HHS regulation removing HIV from the list of diseases that made visitors ineligible for entry to the country -- posted in the Federal Register on July 2 -- was the final step needed to overturn the travel ban.

Maintaining the ban put the United States in the company of nations such as Iraq, Saudia Arabia, Libya, and Sudan, according to MedPage Today. □

FDA: Dough's E. coli strain differs from illness

WASHINGTON – The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday the strain of E. coli found in a sample of raw cookie dough collected at a Nestle USA manufacturing plant does not match the strain that has been linked to a 30-state outbreak, and they aren't sure how the dough was contaminated.

The FDA and the federal Centers for Disease Control have been investigating whether the cookie dough was the source of the E. coli outbreak which has sickened at least 69 people in about 30 states.

E. coli is a potentially deadly germ that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration and, in the most severe cases, kidney failure.

Last month, Nestle voluntarily recalled all Toll House refrigerated cookie dough products made at its Danville, Va., factory after the FDA told Nestle it suspected consumers may have been exposed to E. coli bacteria after eating the dough raw.

On June 29, the FDA confirmed evidence of E. coli O157:H7 in a retained production sample of 16.5 oz. Nestle Toll House refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough bar. But on Thursday, FDA spokesman Mike Herndon said tests on the dough, which came from an unopened package, show the strains of E. coli don't match the E. coli strain linked to the outbreak.

That could mean the dough may have been contaminated with multiple strains. But neither the FDA nor Nestle has discovered a probable source.

The FDA is working with the Glendale, Calif.-based unit of Switzerland-based Nestle SA on the investigation, which Herndon said was ongoing. Nestle said that during federal investigators' visit to the Danville plant, which lasted more than a week, the inspection didn't turn up a connection to E. coli.

Nestle said inspectors observed that a gate valve used on a hopper for dry ingredients required a smoother and more polished surface to allow for easier cleaning. The FDA also noted condensation dripping from a refrigeration pipe onto a large metal spatula used to scrape cookie dough from the mixer.

Both of the items were corrected, the company said. □

Study: 1 in 3 breast cancer patients overtreated

By MARIA CHENG,
AP Medical Writer

LONDON – One in three breast cancer patients identified in public screening programs may be treated unnecessarily, a new study says. Karsten Jorgensen and Peter Gotzsche of the Nordic Cochrane Centre in Copenhagen analyzed breast cancer trends at least seven years before and after government-run screening programs for breast cancer started in parts of Australia, Britain, Canada, Norway and Sweden. The research was published Friday in the BMJ, formerly known as the British Medical Journal. Jorgensen and Gotzsche did not cite any funding for their study.

Once screening programs began, more cases of breast cancer were inevitably picked up, the study showed. If a screening program is working, there should also be a drop in the number of advanced cancer cases detected in older women, since their cancers should theoretically have been caught earlier when they were screened.

However, Jorgensen and Gotzsche found the national breast cancer screening systems, which usually test women aged between 50

and 69, simply reported thousands more cases than previously identified.

Overall, Jorgensen and Gotzsche found that one third of the women identified as having breast cancer didn't actually need to be treated.

Some cancers never cause symptoms or death, and can grow too slowly to ever affect patients. As it is impossible to distinguish between those and deadly cancers, any identified cancer is treated. But the treatments can have harmful side-effects and be psychologically scarring.

"This information needs to get to women so they can make an informed choice," Jorgensen said.

"There is a significant harm in making women cancer patients without good reason."

Jorgensen said that for years, women were urged to undergo breast cancer screening without them being informed of the risks involved, such as having to endure unnecessary treatment if a cancer was identified, even if it might never threaten their health.

Doctors and patients have long debated the merits of prostate cancer screening out of similar concerns that it overdiagnoses patients. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks post 4th straight week of losses



In this photo released by the New York Stock Exchange, Euronext, NYSE Executive Vice President Larry Leibowitz, left, joins National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Vice Chair Roslyn Brock, second left, NAACP President and Chief Executive Officer, Benjamin Todd Jealous, center left, NAACP New York State Conference President Hazel N. Dukes, center right and others for the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, July 9, 2009. The NAACP holds its annual National Convention in New York from July 13 through July 15, 2009.

(AP Photo/NYSE Euronext, Mel Nudelman)

By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Investors seem to be running short on hope. With little upbeat news ahead of a crush of corporate earnings reports next week, stocks on Friday hit their longest losing streak since the market's spring rally began in early March.

Unrelenting worries over the economy, driven by poor reports on unemployment, consumer confidence and falling commodity prices, have kept investors largely out of stocks since mid-June.

"Nobody's investing because there's no reason to invest," said Dawn Bennett, CEO of Bennett Financial Group. Stocks zigzagged during the week, failing to hold what few gains they could muster. The Dow Jones industrials and the Standard & Poor's 500 index have now fallen four straight weeks.

Investors are on edge as the second-quarter earnings season heats up. Aluminum maker Alcoa Inc. unofficially kicked off the period with better-than-expected results on Wednesday, but a warning from Chevron Corp. late

Thursday put investors back on the defensive. Alcoa and Chevron are among the 30 stocks that make up the Dow. The pace of reports picks up speed next week with results coming in from heavy hitters such as Johnson & Johnson, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Google Inc. and General Electric Co.

Investors are looking to the reports, and especially the forecast companies give on the remainder of the year, for insight into where the economy is headed.

Expectations are generally low as investors worry that they were too quick to expect a rebound in the economy when they began bidding stocks sharply higher in March. With little to fuel more gains, the rally has fizzled.

The Dow fell 36.65, or 0.5 percent, to 8,146.52. It was the lowest close for the blue chips since April 28.

The broader S&P 500 index lost 3.55, or 0.4 percent, to 879.13, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 3.48, or 0.2 percent, to 1,756.03. A handful of upgrades to technology shares helped shore up the Nasdaq.

For the week, the Dow lost 1.6 percent, the S&P 500 index slid 1.9 percent and the Nasdaq lost 2.3 percent.

Oil producers fell sharply Friday after Chevron said its refining margins fell in the second quarter and will send its results for the period much lower compared with last year.

In another blow to energy stocks, the price of crude oil resumed its descent Friday

following a slight pop on Thursday, which had broken six straight days of losses. Investors see the plunge in oil prices as a weak indicator for the economy, which won't be as hungry for energy as long as the recession lingers.

A barrel of crude fell 52 cents to settle at \$59.89 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil has fallen sharply since hitting an eight-month high of \$73 early last week.

Chevron shares fell \$1.68, or 2.7 percent, to \$61.40, while Exxon Mobil Corp. fell 85 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$65.12.

Investors have sent major indexes down about 7 percent since mid-June on the belief that a 40 percent run-up in stocks this spring was overdone considering the problems that still plague the economy such as rising unemployment. □

CEO vows better performance as GM exits bankruptcy

By TOM KRISHER and KEN THOMAS,

Associated Press Writers

DETROIT – General Motors completed an unusually quick exit from bankruptcy protection on Friday with ambitions of making money and building cars people are eager to buy. Once the world's largest and most powerful automaker, new GM is now leaner, cleansed of massive debt and burdensome contracts that would have sunk it without federal loans.

But GM, whose 40 days under court supervision was far shorter than anyone predicted, faces the worst auto sales slump in a quarter-century.

At a news conference, CEO Fritz Henderson said the revamped automaker will be faster and more responsive to customers than the old one. It will generate cash and repay billions in government loans ahead of a 2015 deadline.

The new company will build more cars and trucks that consumers want and launch them faster than in the past, the CEO said. GM also announced a partnership with eBay Inc. to test auctioning vehicles online.

"We recognize that we've been given a rare second chance at GM, and we are very grateful for that. And we appreciate the fact that we now have the

tools to get the job done," he said. Known for its sluggish decision-making process and bloated management ranks, GM will create a single, eight-member executive committee to speed up day-to-day decision-making, replacing two senior leadership forums. Henderson, 50, said General Motors Corp. will streamline its bureaucratic management structure, cutting U.S. salaried employment by 20 percent, or 6,150 positions, by the end of 2009. The cuts include 450 executive jobs.

Henderson, who was promoted to chief executive in March, will run the global company and oversee its North American operations. GM's former chief operating officer, Henderson was chosen when President Barack Obama said former CEO Rick Wagoner's restructuring plans didn't go far enough.

Top executives at the new company will focus on business results, new vehicles, brands and consumers.

Bob Lutz, a legendary industry executive, was "unretiring" to become a vice chairman responsible for creative elements of products, marketing and customer relationships, Henderson said. Lutz, 77, had previously planned to retire at the end of the year after more than four



General Motors Corp. CEO Fritz Henderson prepares to address the media during a news conference at the company's headquarters in Detroit, Friday, July 10, 2009. Henderson says the new GM will be far faster and more responsive to customers than the old one.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

decades in the auto business. Nick Reilly, who has served as GM's Asia-Pacific president, will become executive vice president of GM's international operations based in Shanghai, China.

The new company will focus on customers, cars and culture.

"If we don't get this right, nothing else is going to work," Henderson said at GM's Downtown Detroit headquarters. "Business as usual is over at General Motors." automaker is launching a "Tell Fritz" Web site to allow owners and the public to share their concerns with senior management, and Henderson plans to go out on the road every month. □

Jackson's hometown set for tribute



Thomas Johnson takes a picture outside the boyhood home of Michael Jackson July 7, 2009 in Gary, Indiana. Michael Jackson's family prepared Friday to attend a memorial service in his hometown of Gary, Indiana, as investigators said they could not definitely rule out homicide in his death.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Scott Olson)

by Keith Benman

GARY, Indiana (AFP) — Michael Jackson's family prepared Friday to attend a memorial service in his hometown of Gary, Indiana, as investigators said they could not definitely rule out homicide in his death. Hours before the gates at the city's baseball stadium were to open for a hometown tribute to the King of Pop, fans had gathered beneath a large black banner picturing Jackson over the words "Never can say goodbye."

Those lyrics from a Jackson 5 hit seemed to sum up the predicament of millions of fans across the United States in the two weeks since the pop icon's mysterious death on June 25.

Debbie Evergerd, 50, had driven more than 600 miles (900 kilometers) to Gary after working the graveyard shift at a Kansas factory.

"His music, it's just great," Evergerd said through tears as a soft rain fell. "And now people have been able to overlook his problems and focus on his genius and his music."

Fans were eagerly anticipating an appearance by Jackson's father, Joe Jackson, which had been promised by Gary Mayor Rudy Clay. And civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who has visited Gary on many occasions, was also expected. But amid the anticipation of a second, more intimate memorial after Tuesday's star-studded ceremony in

Los Angeles, mystery still surrounded the circumstances of Jackson's death and his final resting place.

Coroners have called for any records held by Jackson's many doctors to be presented, "including radiology and psychiatric records," the Los Angeles Times reported.

Los Angeles police chief Bill Bratton said his department was looking into Jackson's history of prescription drug use, as well as the doctors that he had seen over the years.

"Are we dealing with homicide? Are we dealing with an accidental overdose? What are we dealing with? So as we are standing here speaking, I can tell you, I don't have that information," Bratton told CNN.

Father Joe Jackson told ABC News he was suspicious of the circumstances surrounding his son's death.

"I do believe it was foul play," he said. "I do believe that. Yes."

The Jackson family has also so far not revealed where the pop icon is to be buried, or where his body has been placed since it was displayed in a gold-plated coffin at center stage at the Staples Center memorial. The New York Daily Post claimed Friday that the body was stored in crypt at the Forest Lawn cemetery which is owned by Motown founder Berry Gordy.

Gordy paid moving tribute to Jackson at the public memorial watched by millions after Jackson's family and friends

held a private service at the holly Hills cemetery.

The unconfirmed report came as Fox News said there was feuding in the Jackson family over where his final resting place should be.

Joe Jackson was still pushing for his son to be buried at the Neverland complex, but wife, Katherine, bitterly opposed the idea after Michael Jackson fled his luxury ranch in 2005 on being acquitted of child abuse, saying he never wanted to return.

But on Friday, Gary, a city of 100,000 in northern Indiana seemed determined to give its native son a fitting send-off, some 40 years after Michael Jackson and his family left the hard-luck steel town behind.

"Our love for Michael has been deep," said mayor Clay. "It's still deep."

At the tiny white Gary home where the Jackson family of 11 had lived until Michael was 11, the crowds were as large as those the day after he died.

Fans approached the home at 2300 Jackson Street with a reverential hush, surveying the hundreds of Teddy bears, flowers, and votive candles laid on the front lawn, while the strains of "Billie Jean" played from one of the nearby vendor's tents.

Renee Sperka had been here since the day after Jackson's death. She started decorating a small tree near the house, which is now covered with medals, rosaries, stuffed animals and T-shirts signed by Jackson devotees.

"I got mad every time I heard all the garbage about him from CNN and from other people," the 50-year-old said. "His music was so great and the dancing too."

Some also bemoaned the fact their children only knew Jackson as a kind of show business freak, and not the musical genius he once was.

"My kids, they knew his music before they knew who it was playing it," said Tywum Johnson, 31, of his five children ages five to 14. "Once they found out who it was singing it, they didn't like it anymore." □



British actor Sacha Baron Cohen arrives for the British premiere of the film Bruno at Leicester Square in central London, June 17, 2009.

REUTERS/Toby Melville

Austrians say outrageous Bruno is pretty funny

By Sylvia Westall

VIENNA (Reuters) — A shocking gay fashion reporter who dreams of being "the biggest Austrian superstar since Hitler" raised giggles when he hit Austrian cinemas on Friday despite having rankled some who say his jokes go too far.

"Bruno," a film from British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, tells the story of a hapless television journalist from the Alpine city of Klagenfurt who takes his outrageous attitude and outfits to the United States in search of fame.

The film follows Cohen's surprise 2006 box office hit "Borat," a fake documentary where he played a Kazakh journalist.

Cohen's new alter-ego has upset some for gags such as saying the "Austrian Dream" is to "have a job, find a dungeon and raise a family there" in a nod to Josef Fritzl, the Austrian man who locked up and raped his daughter in a cellar over 24 years, fathering seven children with her.

"The film isn't really about Austria -- sure there were cliches but it would have been funny with an Englishman or an American," said 33-year-old Sabine Doods, coming out of a Vienna cinema. "It might make Austria famous for a little while."

Subtitled "Delicious Journeys Through America for the Purpose of Making Heterosexual Males Visibly Uncomfortable in the Presence of a Gay Foreigner in a Mesh T-Shirt," the film uses in-your-face comedy to expose homophobia.

Bruno flees his homeland after his Velcro jumpsuit causes havoc at a fashion show and he is sacked from his Austrian job. He goes to Hollywood, adopts an African baby in exchange for an iPod and tries to get kidnapped, all in a bid for stardom.

Some gay advocates have said they are worried the film could reinforce negative stereotypes about homosexuals and a few Austrians have reacted unhappily. Austria's new envoy to Britain called for a boycott, criticizing the film's "cheap" jokes.

"I guess it might stop people confusing Austria with Australia and it might make people remember Hitler is Austrian not German, they always seem to get that one muddled up," said 35-year-old lawyer and moviegoer Arthur Machac, who described the film as "pretty average" but "inoffensive to Austria."

Fans point out that no one is safe from Cohen's one-trick gag, not even the President of the United States, who Bruno criticized in a newspaper interview earlier this week for failing to show the kind of "change" he can believe in.

"Ich suggest Barack, zhat you change the record," he told Austrian broadsheet Der Standard in his mock Austro-English. "Put on Just Dance by Lady Gaga, rip off your shirt and give us all a glimpse of what we voted for!" he told the paper, which dedicated its in-depth 'Themes' page to the film with the headline "Hitler was a bit of a bitch."

Reactions to the film have been mildly positive in the Austrian press, though some call it repetitive. □



Harry Potter Takes New York

Jenny Peters

New York – For anyone that thinks that Harry Potter is getting to be old news, the excitement at the New York premiere on Thursday night, July 9, proves that he's one wizard that is still beloved by fans, even after all these years. It was the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the sixth film in the series based on J. K. Rowling's phenomenally successful novels, and the screaming devotees and star-studded red carpet showed the world that Harry's appeal has not waned one bit.

Of course, the three main "Harry Potter" stars, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint, were on hand to celebrate.

FWD105 Daniel Radcliffe attends the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" in New York on Thursday, July 9, 2009.

(Fashion Wire Daily/Grant Lamos IV)

The trio began the series as children in 2001 with "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," and like their characters in the films they have grown up over the past nine years. Now poised adults aged 19, 20, and 19, the three have spent most of their lives working on the epic story of Harry and his magical destiny.

When asked earlier in the day at a press conference about the end of the franchise, with "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" coming in 2010, Emma Watson spoke for the group.

"I think we all feel as if Harry Potter is never really going to die. I think it's so big and so loved. We have a theme park coming out in 2010 and I think that kids are going to keep reading the books and new generations of the kids are going to keep watching the films and I don't really ever feel like it's going to really go away. I think it's got longevity," she said.

Other stars on hand for the film's premiere included Bonnie Wright, Michael Gambon, Alan Rickman, Tom Felton, Warwick Davis and Freddie Stroma, as well as director David Yates.

If the celebrity fan turnout is any indication, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" will join its predecessors in raking in huge amounts of cash at the box office. Denis Leary, Diane Sawyer, Marcia Gay Harden, Ashanti, Lance Bass, Michelle Trachtenberg, Eric Mabius, Gina Gershon, and Vanessa Williams all came out to be among the first to see the latest thrilling installment in the battle between Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort.

And as for the final chapter in the series, Daniel Radcliffe spoke for the group when he admitted, "I'm so excited about the seventh film. Seeing the sixth film again, we are doing something very, very different in the last one. We're not at Hogwarts. The difference that makes is extraordinary." □



"Early Bird: daily 5-7pm
3-course dinner
for \$29.75 per person"

Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

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Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

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Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to www.papillonaruba.com.

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

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Catch your own dinner

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NASA Clears Shuttle Endeavour for Saturday Launch

NASA has officially cleared the space shuttle Endeavour for its third launch attempt on Saturday, with the chance of thunderstorms posing the only threat to the mission after nearly a month of delays.

Endeavour is poised to blast off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 7:39 p.m. EDT (2339 GMT) to begin an ambitious 16-day flight to the International Space Station. But the potential for thunderstorms, rain and clouds near the Cape Canaveral spaceport give the shuttle just a 40 percent chance of good flight weather.

"I don't worry about things I can't control, and I can't control the weather," said NASA's Mike Moses, who leads Endeavour's Mission Management Team, during a Friday briefing. Moses added that some people joke that, because his last name is Moses, he should have some say in the weather. "But I really can't," he said with a smile.

Launch weather conditions will improve slightly on Sunday and Monday, but NASA hopes to fly tomorrow evening to avoid a space traffic conflict with an unmanned Russian cargo ship also due at the station this month. Commanded by veteran spaceflyer Mark Polansky, Endeavour's six-man, one-woman crew plans to deliver an external experiment-carrying porch for the space station's massive Japanese lab Kibo. It is the third, and last, piece of the \$1 billion Japanese facility. Five spacewalks are planned to install the space porch and perform station maintenance.

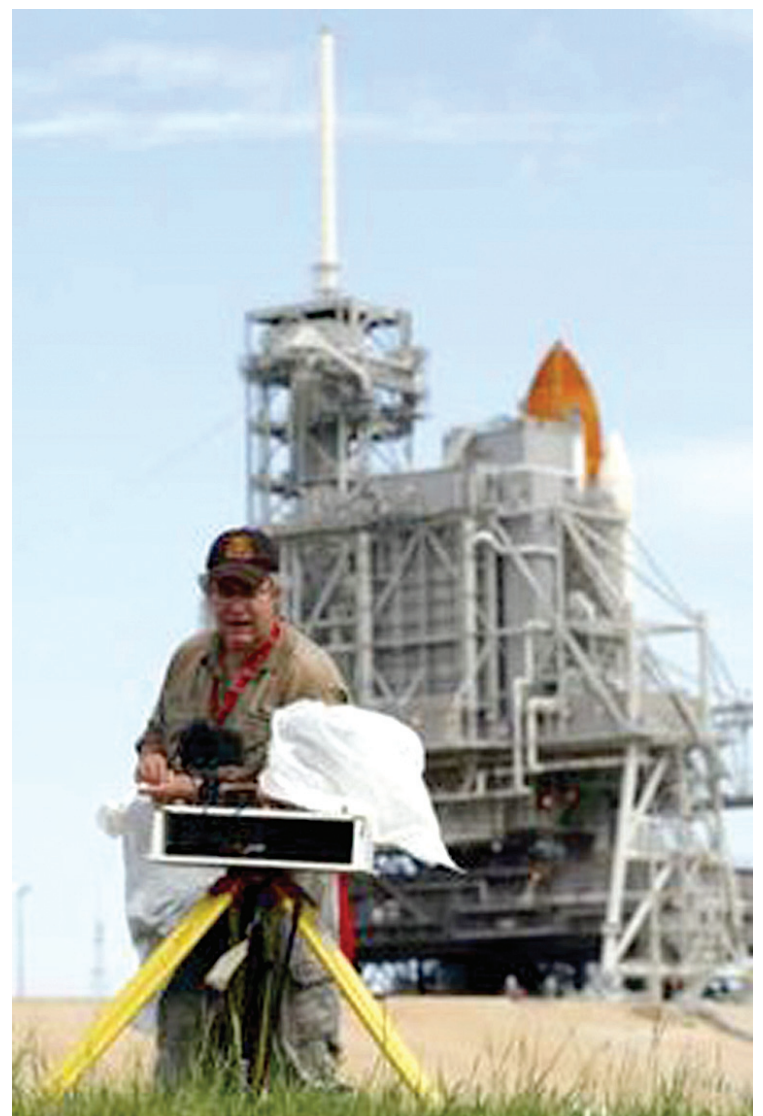
The seven Endeavour astronauts will boost the station's current six-man crew up to 13 people - its highest population ever - when the shuttle arrives.

One Endeavour crewmember, NASA astronaut Tim Kopra, will replace Japanese spaceflyer Koichi Wakata as part of the station's Expedition 20 crew. Wakata has lived aboard the station since March and will return to Earth aboard the shuttle.

Endeavour's mission has been delayed since mid-June due to a vexing hydrogen gas leak that stalled two launch attempts. Engineers tracked the problem to a misaligned plate on the shuttle's 15-story external tank. They replaced the plate and a hydrogen vent line seal, and successfully tested the fix last week.

Moses said he is confident the glitch will not appear during Saturday's launch attempt. Endeavour's flight will mark NASA's third shuttle mission of up to five planned for this year.

Mission managers have said Endeavour has until July 14 to try and launch toward the station before NASA would stand down to allow the Russian cargo ship's launch and docking at the orbiting lab. If the shuttle does not launch by then, the agency would consider holding the flight until July 27 to wait out the space cargo run. While there is some potential room to extend Endeavour's launch window, Moses said that it is easier for NASA to shift its space shuttle launch date than for Russia to move a Soyuz rocket launch. □



A photographer adjusts his cameras while the space shuttle Endeavour sits on launch pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida July 10, 2009.

REUTERS/Scott Audette (UNITED STATES SCI TECH)

Report: Bush program extended beyond wiretaps

PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration authorized secret surveillance activities that still have not been made public, according to a new U.S. government report that questions the legal basis for the unprecedented anti-terrorism program.

It is unclear how much valuable intelligence was yielded by the surveillance program started after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, according to the unclassified summary of reports by five inspectors general. The reports mandated by Congress last year were delivered to lawmakers Friday.

President George W. Bush authorized other secret intelligence activities — which have yet to become public — even as he was launching the massiveterrorlesswiretapping program, the summary said. It describes the entire program as the “President’s Surveillance Program.”

The report describes the program as unprecedented and raises questions about the legal grounding used for its creation. It also says the intelligence agencies’ continued retention and use of the information collected under the program should be carefully monitored. Many senior intelligence officials believe the program filled a gap in intelligence. Others, including FBI, CIA and National Counterterrorism Centeranalysts,saidintelligence gathered by traditional means was often more specific and timely, according to the report. The Bush White House acknowledged in 2005 that it allowed the National Security Agency to intercept international communications that passed through U.S. cables without court orders.

The inspectors general interviewed more than 200 government officials and private sector personnel, including former CIA and NSA Director Michael Hayden, former Defense Secretary Donald H.



Former President George W. Bush addresses a Fourth of July crowd at the Let Freedom Ring 2009 festival at Crystal Beach Park Arena in Woodward, Okla., Saturday, July 4, 2009.

Associated Press

Rumsfeld and former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

Five former Bush administration officials refused to be interviewed, including former CIA Director George Tenet and former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The others: former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card; former top Cheney aide David Addington; and John Yoo, who served as a deputy assistant attorney general.

The IG report said an unnamed White House official inserted a paragraph into the first threat assessment prepared by the CIA after the Sept. 11 attacks, which was used to justify the extraordinary intelligence measures.

The paragraph said that the “individuals and organizations involved in global terrorism possessed the capability and intention to undertake further terrorist attacks within the United States,” according to the report.

It also said that the president should authorize the NSA

to conduct the surveillance activities.

The memos were revised and renewed thereafter every 45 days. The report said that the president consistently gave that authorization for the surveillance activity, and that both CIA chief Tenet and his successor, Porter Goss, never withheld their signatures from threat assessment memoranda.

The report also questions the legal advice used by Bush to set up the program, pinpointing omissions and questionable legal memos written by Yoo at the Justice Department.

The report suggests Yoo ignored an explicit provision in the FISA law designed to restrict the government’s authority to conduct electronic surveillance during wartime. And it said flaws in Yoo’s memos later presented “a serious impediment” to recertifying the program.

Congress required the review of the so-called warrantless wiretapping program last year when it revised the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act

Fla. couple who adopted 12 children found slain

By MELISSA NELSON

Associated Press Writer

PENSACOLA, Fla. —

Investigators asked the public to be on the lookout Friday for a red van they believe carried three men involved in the deaths of a Florida Panhandle couple who were shot in their rural home while eight of their children slept.

Surveillance cameras showed the van at the home of Byrd and Melanie Billings in Beulah, a rural area west of Pensacola near the Alabama border, Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan said. The children were unharmed.

The sheriff’s office released an enhanced but still grainy photograph of a red, 15-passenger van dating to the late 70s or early 80s.

Continued on Page B5



This 2005 picture shows Byrd and Melanie Billings at their home in Beulah, Fla. Investigators asked the public to be on the lookout Friday, July 10, 2009 for a red van they believe carried three men involved in the deaths of the Florida Panhandle couple who were shot in their rural home while eight of their children slept.

Associated Press



President Barack Obama speaks at a press conference at the end of the G8 Summit in L’Aquila, Italy, Friday, July 10, 2009.

Associated Press

World has avoided economic disaster, President Obama says

CHARLES BABINGTON

Associated Press Writer

L’AQUILA, Italy (AP) — Lasting worldwide recovery “is still a ways off,” President Barack Obama declared Friday, but he also said at the conclusion of a global summit that a disastrous economic collapse apparently has been averted.

Obama said world leaders had taken significant measures to address economic, environmental and global security issues.

Continued on Page B6

Treasury Secretary: economic stimulus on expected path



Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner testifies during a joint hearing of the House Financial Services and the Agriculture Committees on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, July 10, 2009.
Associated Press

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite persistently high unemployment, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Friday the Obama administration plan to stimulate the U.S. economy by spending billions of dollars on construction and

other local projects is on the “expected path.”

“There’s been substantial improvements in arresting what was the worst recession globally we’ve seen in generations,” Geithner told lawmakers Friday.

Geithner’s remarks came as public opinion polls show waning support for

President Barack Obama’s economic policies. Republican critics say the rising unemployment rate is proof that the \$787 stimulus has not helped reverse the effects of the recession.

About 2 million jobs have been lost since Congress passed Obama’s stimulus package in February. Unemployment now stands at 9.5 percent, the highest in 26 years. Some Obama allies have been calling for Congress to pass a second stimulus package.

“I was just wondering, where do you think your plan went wrong?” asked Rep. Bill Posey, a Republican.

Geithner said the rate of decline in the economy has slowed, consumer confidence has improved, the financial system is healing, and concern about a financial meltdown has receded.

“Those are critically important signs of initial progress,” Geithner said.

Geithner said unemployment is an inescapable element of a

recession. The stimulus plan, he said, “was necessary and critically important to reduce the risk that we’d see hundreds of thousands losses of jobs and we’d see million of job losses beyond this point and see thousands of more business fail unnecessarily.”

Geithner’s defense, before a joint hearing of the House Financial Services and the Agriculture committees, came in the midst of his call for greater government control over the generally unregulated but complex derivatives market, that he said contributed to the financial crisis.

“Establishing a comprehensive framework of oversight is crucial,” Geithner said in his opening remarks to a joint hearing by the House agriculture and financial services committees.

Despite apprehension among Republicans, the effort to add government restrictions to these more freewheeling financial instruments has gained

support within the Democratic-controlled Congress.

“Clearly, we’re going to be significantly expanding regulation of derivatives,” said Rep. Barney Frank, the chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Derivatives are financial instruments whose values are based on something else, such as a mortgage-backed security or a commodity like oil. The allure of the over-the-counter derivative, as opposed to those swapped on exchanges, is that it can be individually negotiated and tailored to meet the specific needs of the buyer.

Geithner said the ease with which derivatives were bought and sold in an era of easy credit encouraged financial institutions and investors to take on too much risk. At the same time, government regulators weren’t given the proper tools to mitigate those risks and protect the American consumer, he said.

“The complexity of the instruments overwhelmed the checks and balances of risk management and supervision,” he said.

The administration’s proposal, part of a broader overhaul package, has run up against much of the financial industry, which says it would raise costs and squash innovation.

Some lawmakers and federal regulators say they are skeptical, too.

“My fear is that the administration is going down the path of shifting risk not to the investors and the dealers, but ultimately to the taxpayers,” said Rep. Spencer Bachus, the top Republican on the Financial Services committee. □



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Photo by Diane Keijzer



Families grapple with gravedigging scheme

DON BABWIN

Associated Press Writer

ALSIP, Illinois (AP)

— Hundreds of horrified relatives grappling with guilt and anger wandered around a historic black cemetery near Chicago on Friday searching for their loved ones' graves after former cemetery workers were accused of dumping hundreds of unearthed corpses in scheme to resell their plots. One relative, Shareese McLemore, said she fears her mother's grave at Burr Oak Cemetery was tampered with after she saw that the normally green grass around the plot was damaged and burnt.

"I have a sadness. It's bringing back memories," said McLemore, 36, from Kankakee, Ill. "I feel betrayed by the people who worked there. I thought they had my best interests."

The cemetery in Alsip is the burial place of civil right-era lynching victim Emmett Till and blues singers Willie Dixon and Dinah Washington. While Till's grave site was not disturbed, police said investigators found his original iconic glass-topped casket rusting in a shack at the cemetery. The inside of the casket was shredded by wild animals that were living in it, police said.

Till was killed in 1955 after reportedly whistling at a white woman during a visit to his uncle's house in Mississippi. Nearly 100,000 people visited the casket during a four-day public viewing in Chicago, and images of the 14-year-old's battered body helped spark the civil rights movement.

When Till was exhumed in 2005 during an investigation of his death, he was reburied in a new casket. The original casket was supposed to be kept for a planned memorial to Till.

One of Till's cousin's said she was appalled that the casket was found in such poor condition.

"It's part of history, it's part of our trying to put a family to rest," Ollie Gordon said Friday during a visit to the cemetery.

Authorities said four former

cemetery employees — three gravediggers and a manager — made about \$300,000 in the scheme that stretched back at least four years. The four sold existing deeds and plots to unsuspecting members of the public for cash, authorities said.

They then allegedly dug up hundreds of corpses and either dumped some in a weeded, vacant area near the cemetery or double-stacked others in graves.

Hundreds of relatives, some clutching maps of the 150-acre site, walked through rows of graves at the cemetery on Friday hoping to find the their family members' plots undisturbed. Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said thousands have flooded the cemetery since Thursday. Several, including McLemore, have reported that the plots appeared to have been tampered, with some saying headstones were missing.

Dart said the investigation would take months because records had been destroyed, lost or altered. Illinois Comptroller Daniel Hynes said he had started the process of revoking Burr Oak's license, and authorities said at least one lawsuit against the cemetery has been filed on behalf of the families.

Dart said two funerals at the cemetery on Thursday also went wrong. One person was initially buried in the wrong plot and another body was sent back to the funeral home because the plot was already occupied by another body, he said.

"There is absolutely no way we can rule out any area of the cemetery" as having no criminal activity, said Dart. "There is not a specific pattern, or specific rhyme or reason to things."

The suspects, who were being held on bond, were former cemetery manager Carolyn Towns, 49, Keith Nicks, 45, and Terrence Nicks, 39 — all of Chicago — and Maurice Dailey, 61, of Robbins. Each was charged with one count of dismembering a human body, a felony.

Towns also alleged pocketed



Grave markers are seen scattered on the floor of a shack at the Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip, Ill., Friday, July 10, 2009. It is same room that the original glass-topped casket of lynching victim Emmett Till was found rusting by Cook County officials investigating at the cemetery where four workers are accused of digging up bodies to resell plots. The 14-year-old Chicagoan was killed in 1955 after reportedly whistling at a white woman during a visit to his uncle's house in Mississippi. Nearly 100,000 people visited the casket during a four-day public viewing in Chicago. When Till was exhumed in 2005 during an investigation of his death, he was reburied in a new casket. The original casket was supposed to be kept for a planned memorial to Till.

Associated Press

donations she elicited for a Till memorial museum, authorities allege, though she has not been charged in connection with those accusations. Court documents show she was fired from the cemetery in late May amid allegations of financial wrongdoing. Hynes said the cemetery's

Arizona-based owner, Perpetua Inc., is cooperating with authorities. Perpetua started the investigation by calling Cook County authorities to report alleged financial wrongdoing. A spokeswoman for the Cook County state's attorney's office said Towns is being

represented by a private attorney, but she didn't know the attorney's name. The Cook County public defender's office said Friday it was representing the three other defendants but did not yet have the attorneys' names. Attempts to reach family members were unsuccessful. □



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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS!

House Dems want to tax the rich for health care



Vice President Joe Biden listens to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius speak to small business leaders about the rising costs of health care for people who work in small businesses and their small business employers, Friday, July 10, 2009, in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington.

By ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Key House Democrats decided Friday to raise taxes on the wealthy to help pay for health care legislation, capping an up-and-down week for President Barack Obama's top domestic priority. At the same time, Democratic leaders tried to quell concerns among moderate and conservative lawmakers about other elements of the bill.

"We're closer to that

Associated Press

significant reform than at any time in recent history. That doesn't make it easy. It's hard," Obama said while traveling overseas.

Democrats on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee agreed to a new surtax that would start with households making \$350,000 a year and begin in 2011, said the committee's chairman, Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.

It would raise some \$540 billion over 10 years, about half the cost of Obama's

ambitious plan to reshape the nation's health care system and provide care to the 50 million uninsured. However, lawmakers could not provide an exact price tag of the overall bill.

The proposal faces an uncertain reception in the Senate and from moderate and conservative Democrats in the House, who rebelled Thursday over various aspects — including costs — of the plan.

Democratic leaders spent hours Friday trying to soothe those concerns without reaching resolution, even as Rangel's panel met to come up with the payment proposal.

Obama acknowledged obstacles to the legislative timetable but said failure to meet a self-imposed August deadline for moving bills through the House and Senate didn't doom the endeavor.

"I never believe anything is do-or-die," the president said at a news conference in Italy. "But I really want to get it done by the August recess."

Rangel said the new surtax would be graduated, starting with households at \$350,000 and then rising at \$500,000 and again at \$1 million. Cuts to Medicare and Medicaid

would raise about \$500 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Fees paid by companies who don't provide insurance to their employees would push the amount of the bill even higher.

"Instead of putting pieces of different revenue raisers together the best we can do is a graduated surtax," Rangel said.

Rangel didn't describe details, but one official said the surtax would apply to individuals with adjusted gross incomes over \$280,000 a year, and couples over \$350,000. A senior House aide said the surtax would be 1 percent for the first group of high earners, those households making \$350,000 or more. The levels for the other two groups, those above \$500,000 and \$1 million in annual income are still being determined, said the aide.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations. House Democrats had hoped to release a final bill Friday, but that was before a group of moderates and conservatives, known as Blue Dog Democrats, voiced their objections. House leaders are now promising a bill Monday with committee

votes later in the week.

The Blue Dogs want a greater focus on cost containment within the health care system, such as reducing overpayments. They are also concerned about impact on small businesses and disparities in care in rural areas.

Blue Dog members said Friday that House Democratic leaders were beginning to hear their concerns but that more attention was needed.

"Addressed? Obviously we'll wait and see," Rep. Heath Shuler, D-N.C., said after meeting with House leaders.

Several Blue Dog members voiced concerns about new taxes, and it's unclear whether the Senate would go along with the House on a tax on high earners. Republican senators have said revenues for health overhaul should be related to health care in some way. A health insurance benefits tax that got shot down in the Senate this week was related to health care, since many economists say it would help hold down costs by forcing people to switch to more frugal coverage.

Asked Thursday if the Senate could support a "millionaire's tax" to pay for health care, Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., answered: "I don't know."

Whatever the final plan, Obama's political machine is stepping up efforts to gin up support. Organizing for America is asking supporters to join door-to-door canvasses on upcoming weekends to ask their neighbors to support the president on health care.

Ways and Means members said that an earlier proposal to tax soda was unlikely, but a new coalition of beverage and food producers and marketers, joined by some conservative groups, was taking no chances.

The group will begin running ads in Washington area newspapers this Sunday opposing proposals to tax sugary drinks. The ad shows a smiling couple sitting outside a lakeside tent with the headline, "In: Budget Vacations. Out: Beverage Taxes." □



Levi Johnston speaks during a news conference in Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday, July 9, 2009. Johnston, the former fiance of Gov. Sarah Palin's 18-year-old daughter, says he knows why the Alaska governor is resigning - for money.

Associated Press

MARY PEMBERTON
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A spokeswoman for Gov. Sarah Palin is scoffing at comments by Bristol Palin's

Levi Johnston: Governor Palin resigned to cash in on fame

former fiance, who says he thinks Palin resigned to cash in on her fame.

"It is interesting to learn Levi is working on a piece of fiction while honing his acting skills," Palin family spokeswoman Meghan Stapleton said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Levi Johnston, 19, whose wedding to Bristol Palin was called off earlier this year, said Thursday he lived with the Palin family from early December to the second week in January.

He claimed he heard the governor several times say how nice it would be to take advantage of the lucrative deals that were being offered, including a reality show and a book.

"She had talked about how nice it would be to take some of this money people had been offering us and you know just run with it, say 'forget everything else,'" he said.

He said he thinks book deals were really what appealed to Palin.

"I think the big deal was the book. That was millions of dollars," said Johnston, who has had a strained relationship with the family but now says things have improved.

Compensation details of Palin's book projects haven't been disclosed. The former Republican vice presidential candidate has said she is facing more than \$500,000 in legal fees.

Johnston made his comments

at a news conference Thursday at the office of his attorney, Rex Butler.

Johnston came forward, Butler said, because Alaskans want to know why Palin has decided to resign, effective the end of the month.

Johnston is pursuing his own book deal and movie deal while working as a carpenter. Asked if he would vote for her if she ran for president, Johnston said: "I think she's a great lady, but after seeing what she did now, you know, leaving Alaska, I would have to say, 'no.' Obviously she's stressed out as governor. I mean moving up to the vice president or president is huge. I just don't think anymore that she's cut out for the job." □

12 CHILDREN SLAIN
Continued from Page B1

Morgan said investigators did not know who killed the wealthy couple known for adopting children with developmental disabilities, many born to drug-addicted mothers. Investigators are also awaiting autopsy results on the couple to learn more about the killings, he added. Morgan said eight of the children, ages 8 to 14, were

in the home when the couple was killed Thursday evening. A woman who lives in an outlying building and helps care for the children called emergency dispatchers from the home. Deputies had to wake some of the children after they arrived, authorities said. Investigators interviewed the children, who are now staying with other family members, Morgan said. The Billings had 16 children,



This combination of booking photos released Thursday, July 9, 2009 by the Cook County, Ill. Sheriff's Office shows Carolyn Towns, 49, Terrence Nick, 39, Keith Nicks, 45, all of Chicago, and Maurice Dailey, 61, of Robbins, Ill. All four were charged Thursday, July 9, 2009 in an elaborate scheme in which hundreds of corpses were dug up at the Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip, Ill., a historic black cemetery near Chicago, and strewn in a weeded area or reburied with other bodies so that plots could be resold, authorities said.

Prison for man caught with gun near Obama's home

CHICAGO (AP) — A judge has given a five-year prison sentence to a 31-year-old man convicted of having a gun outside President Barack Obama's Chicago home in September.

Omhari Sengstacke was convicted last month of two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. He was arrested in September after repeatedly trying to pass security barriers near Obama's home, saying he wanted to talk to Obama about a job. Police found a handgun and a bulletproof vest in Sengstacke's car but said he hadn't threatened Obama. Obama was running for president at the time of the arrest.

Cook County State's Attorney's spokeswoman Tandra Simonton says Sengstacke was sentenced on Friday, the Chicago Tribune reports. □



A file photo released Sept. 23, 2008 by the Chicago Police Department shows Omhari Sengstacke.

Associated Press

12 of them adopted. They married 18 years ago and each had two children from previous marriages. The couple then began adopting children with developmental disabilities and other problems.

The couple owned several local businesses, including a finance company and a used car dealership. In a 2005 story in the Pensacola News Journal, the couple said they wanted to share their

Associated Press
wealth with children in need, but didn't imagine their family would grow so large. "It just happened," Melanie Byrd told the newspaper. "I just wanted to give them a better life." □

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President Barack Obama, third from left, is greeted in Accra, Ghana, Friday, July 10, 2009.

Associated Press

DISASTER

Continued from Page B1

“Reckless actions by a few have fueled a recession that spans the globe,” Obama said of the meltdown that began in the United States with a tumble in housing prices and

drastic slowing of business lending. The downturn now threatens superpowers and emerging nations alike. Obama urged national leaders to unite behind a global recovery plan that includes stricter financial regulation and

sustained stimulus spending. “The only way forward is through shared and persistent effort to combat threats to our peace, our prosperity and our common humanity wherever they may exist. None of this will be easy,” Obama told a news conference at the end of the Group of Eight summit of major economic powers. The president rejected suggestions that the summit fell short of expectations by failing to call for tough new sanctions on Iran for its crackdown on democracy advocates after its disputed presidential election.

“What we wanted was exactly what we got, which is a statement of unity and strong condemnation,” Obama said. He said the leaders’ declaration was even more significant because it included Russia, “which doesn’t make statements like that lightly.” Obama said world leaders will reevaluate their posture toward Iran at a meeting in Pittsburgh in September of the world’s 20 major industrial and developing economies. He cited “the appalling events surrounding the presidential election” and said the world would “take stock of Iran’s progress” and watch its behavior.

Leaders have made clear that for Iran to take its “rightful place” in the world, the country must adhere to international standards and behave responsibly, Obama said.

The president was next turning to more photogenic events: a meeting with the pope and a stop in Africa.

Obama, his wife and senior advisers met Pope Benedict XVI and exchanged gifts shortly before leaving Italy late Friday. Obama and Benedict had spoken by phone but had not met before.

“It’s a great honor for me. Thank you so much,” Obama said as he met the pontiff. Benedict asked Obama about the G-8 summit, eliciting Obama’s assessment that it was “very productive.” The cameras clattered while they sat down at the pope’s desk.

“Your Holiness, I’m sure you’re used to having your picture taken. I’m getting used to it,” Obama said.

Later in the day, Obama flew to Ghana on his first trip to sub-Saharan Africa as president, but second visit to Africa. He gave a speech in Egypt last month.

He landed in Ghana soon after 9 p.m. local time and met a long line of dignitaries, led by President John Atta Mills. An ethnic African group danced and banged drums for Obama’s arrival. Obama will make a speech to lawmakers there and tour an oceanfront fort once used to ship slaves to the Americas. Obama, joined by his wife and two daughters, will be in Ghana less than 24 hours.

Earlier, on a pressing issue back home, Obama acknowledged that his top legislative priority — health care overhaul — had encountered rocky going in Congress during his overseas trip, with opposition building among both Republicans and economically conservative

Democrats.

But he said he still was confident of getting the measure passed before Congress begins its August recess. Asked if that timetable was “do or die,” Obama responded: “I never believe anything is do-or-die. But I really want to get it done by the August recess.”


On the world economy, Obama said that rising food prices mean millions more are falling into desperate poverty “and right now, at this defining moment, we face a choice. We can either shape our future or let events shape it for us.”

“While our markets are improving and we appear to have averted global collapse, we know that too many people are still struggling. So we agree that full recovery is still a ways off.” He said the world leaders felt “it would be premature to begin winding down our stimulus plans.”

Earlier in the week, the 186-nation International Monetary Fund released an updated economic forecast, predicting that the global economy will shrink 1.4 percent this year, the worst performance in the post-World War II period. That forecast was slightly worse than the 1.3 percent decline the IMF predicted in April.

The international lending agency did see prospects improving for next year with global growth forecast to climb to 2.5 percent, up from an April projection of 1.9 percent.

Leaders at Friday’s meetings also committed themselves to a \$20 billion initiative to help farmers in poor countries boost production. □



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PG-13	LAND OF THE LOST	daily: 12:00		10:00 late show: 12:05	
R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123	daily: 12:00		7:40 late show: 12:10	
PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 12:00	4:00 2:00	6:00 late show: 8:00	3D
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One dead at Pamplona; first goring death since '95

ALVARO BARRIENTOS
Associated Press Writer
PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) — For a bull, this one was on the smallish side, at just over a ton. And its name, Capuchino, sounded harmless enough, like coffee with frothy milk. But of the things that can go wrong when hordes of humans sprint with thundering beasts at Spain's most storied fiesta, the light brown bull did one of the most dangerous on Friday, straying from the pack, spooking and charging at anything that moved. The rogue bull gored a young Spaniard in the neck, the first fatality in nearly 15 years at Pamplona's running of the bulls. The victim was killed almost instantly as he scurried for cover under a wooden barrier, sliding under it feet-first. Had he dived headfirst, the experienced bull runner and son of a Pamplona native would probably still be alive.

At least nine people were injured in the fourth of eight planned runs, illustrating the festival's extraordinary drawing power and global lure: two were Americans in their 60s, one of whom suffered a blow to the chest, one a Londoner aged 20, and another a young man from Argentina. The party went on despite the death, the 15th since record keeping began in 1924. The running of the bulls — made famous by Ernest Hemingway's novel "The Sun Also Rises" — has never been suspended just because someone has died in the mad, half mile (850-meter) dash from a holding pen to the city's bull ring. There, the same six bulls that run in the cool of the morning over cobblestone streets face off against matadors and the prospect of almost certain death in the afternoon. Ironically, on Friday, Capuchino was scheduled to go first.

A minute of silence was to be observed in memory of the late Spaniard, identified as Daniel Jimeno Romero, 27, from Alcala de Henares, a town outside Madrid. On the social networking site Netlog, where condolences were being posted Friday, he described himself as a glassmaker who loves soccer and snowboarding. Friday's run got ugly quickly. Capuchino was running at the head of the pack at a hill leading up from the holding pen. The bulls go very fast at that point because their front legs are shorter than their hind ones, allowing them to run better on an incline than on level ground. Herders with sticks chased them, to keep them going. But 1,130 pound Capuchino, about 200 pounds lighter than the biggest of the group, tripped over some runners and ended up lagging behind. The bulls run with six steers meant to keep them in a tight pack,



Revelers run through the entrance to the bull ring as "Cappuccino", the bull that gored a reveler to death, charges towards them, during the fourth run of the Jandilla fighting bulls at San Fermin Fiestas in Pamplona, northern Spain, Friday, July 10, 2009. A charging bull gored a young man to death Friday at Pamplona's San Fermin festival, the first such fatality in nearly 15 years. Nine others were injured in a particularly dangerous and chaotic chapter of the running of the bulls.

Associated Press

and tend to mind their own business as long as they stay together. But a bull that gets separated is more likely to get frightened and aggressive, and that is what happened Friday, leading to chaos. "As the bull approached, it attacked runners seeking refuge at the fence," said Roberto Sanz, 43, a veteran Pamplona runner who was near Jimeno Romero when he died but did not

witness it. Amateur video footage shows Jimeno Romero, wearing white pants and a brown-and-white striped shirt, trotting backward as he faced the oncoming bull and stumbling when other runners go down. He tried to squeeze under the fence, and was halfway there, when Capuchino caught him with a single swipe of his right horn. □

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Report: U.S. 'gesture' could win reporters' release



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton answers question during her town hall meeting at the State Department in Washington, Friday, July 10, 2009. Clinton called Friday for North Korea to grant amnesty to Laura Ling and Euna Lee, the two American reporters sentenced last month to 12 years of hard labor for entering North Korea illegally. She said the reporters have shown remorse, and should be set free.

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea might release two convicted American journalists if the United States offers

a gesture such as an official apology, a U.S.-based scholar who visited Pyongyang said in interviews published Friday.

Laura Ling and Euna Lee were detained in March near the North Korean border with China and sentenced last month to 12 years of hard labor for entering the country illegally and for "hostile acts." The two work for former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's California-based Current TV media group.

University of Georgia political scientist Han Park said that the two are being kept at a guest house in the North Korean capital and the delay in sending them to a prison labor camp may be an attempt to seek talks with Washington on their release.

"North Korea's move not to carry out the sentence suggests that it could release them through a dialogue with the United States and they could be set free at an early date, depending on the U.S. gesture," Park said in an interview with

South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper.

Park, originally from South Korea, arrived Thursday in Seoul following a trip to Pyongyang.

Separately, Park told South Korea's Yonhap news agency that the issue of the journalists could be resolved if the U.S. government offers an official apology and promises such things won't happen again.

He also predicted that Washington and Pyongyang could hold a dialogue soon over the journalists' release and their return to the U.S., according to Yonhap. No timeframe for a possible meeting was given.

"I heard from North Korean officials that the American journalists were doing fine at a guest house in Pyongyang," Park told the JoongAng Ilbo.

Park said North Korean officials were angry at the journalists for trying to produce a program critical of the isolated communist country.

Attempts to reach Park in Seoul

were unsuccessful.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday that the reporters have expressed "great remorse for this incident."

Clinton called on North Korea to grant the two amnesty and allow them to quickly return home to their families. She said "everyone is very sorry that it happened."

A South Korean who helped organize the journalists' reporting trip to China, the Rev. Chun Ki-won, said in April that Ling and Lee traveled to the border region with North Korea to interview women and children who had fled the impoverished country.

Park's comments came days after Laura Ling told her sister, journalist Lisa Ling, during a 20-minute telephone call that a government pardon is their only hope for freedom.

In California, Lisa Ling said Thursday that her sister called Tuesday to say she and Lee had broken the law in North Korea

when they were captured.

Their continued detention comes as the U.S. is moving to enforce U.N. sanctions as well as its own measures against the communist regime for its May 25 nuclear test. The North also recently fired seven ballistic missiles in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions. North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. Washington and Pyongyang do not have diplomatic relations.

In Paris, Reporters Without Borders, known by its French acronym RSF, staged a small rally in front of the "Peace Wall" sculpture next to the Eiffel Tower on Thursday night. "The aim is to show our solidarity" with the two jailed journalists and with the protests being held in the United States, said RSF's Lucie Morillon.

"We're here to show that it really is an international campaign, not just an American one," Morillon said. □



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400,000 leave their homes after quake in China

AUDRA ANG

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) — More than 400,000 people have left their homes after an earthquake rocked southwestern China, killing one person and destroying thousands of houses, state media said Friday.

Thursday's magnitude-6.0 temblor, centered in Yunnan province's Yao'an county, also injured 325 others, 24 seriously, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Yunnan Television showed displaced residents sleeping outdoors in makeshift beds made up of brightly colored quilts.

Others packed into emergency tents, bundles of provisions and clothing in tow. Often people leave even undamaged houses after earthquakes because they are afraid to sleep indoors while aftershocks continue to shake the area.

Piles of rubble from damaged houses made of brick and clay were scattered on the ground in the footage. At a hospital, nurses gave intravenous drips to the elderly.

Eight aftershocks have followed Thursday's quake, with the latest registering a 5.2-magnitude Friday evening, Xinhua said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

An official at Yao'an's disaster relief command center said late Friday that rescuers at the scene were still assessing the damage, but he did not expect the death toll to rise. More collapsed homes, however, may be discovered in the mountainous, sparsely populated area, he said. He hung up without giving his name or any more details.

So far, Xinhua said that about 18,000 homes have been destroyed and another 75,000 were damaged, Xinhua said.

It said China's civil affairs ministry has ordered the immediate delivery of 5,000 tents and other relief materials. The provincial civil affairs department has already allocated 4,000 tents, 3,000 quilts and other relief materials to Yao'an.

More than 1,000 police and soldiers have been dispatched to the disaster zone, Xinhua said.

"By using simple tools and even their bare hands, the soldiers and militia have saved at least seven residents including two children," Xinhua said.

China allocated 38 million yuan (\$5.56 million) to the quake-hit area.

Yunnan is a quake-prone, mountainous region that lies on China's southern border with Thailand and Myanmar. It also borders Sichuan province, where a magnitude-7.9 quake last year left almost 90,000



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a damaged house is seen in Guantun Village in Guantun Town of Yao'an County, Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Yunnan Province Friday, July 10, 2009. More than 400,000 people need to be relocated after an earthquake rocked southwestern China, destroying thousands of homes, state media said Friday. Thursday's magnitude-6.0 temblor, centered in Yunnan province's Yao'an county, killed one person and injured 325 others, 24 seriously, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Associated Press

people dead or missing.

In 1988, a 7.1-magnitude quake in Yunnan near Myanmar killed 930 people.

More than 15,000 people died after a magnitude-7.7

earthquake in the province in 1970, though authorities at the time covered up information on casualties and damage amid the chaos of the Cultural Revolution. □



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Nocentini takes yellow jersey in 7th Tour stage

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

ARCALIS, Andorra (AP) — Italy's Rinaldo Nocentini captured the yellow jersey in Friday's seventh stage of the Tour de France, and Alberto Contador swiped second place from Lance Armstrong.

Brice Feillu of France burst out of a breakaway group for a solo victory in the punishing stage from Spain into Andorra, the first ride in high mountains in the three-week race this year.

It also marked the first time that the yellow jersey changed hands: Swiss time-trial specialist Fabian Cancellara had held it since winning the opening-day race against the clock in Monaco.

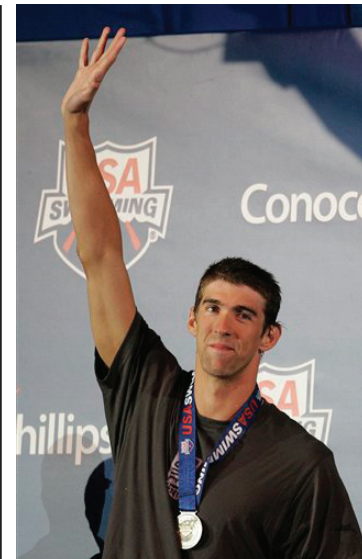
Contador pulled away from Armstrong and a pack of other favorites with a burst of speed in the last two kilometers.

Continued on Page B12



Brice Feillu of France, wearing the best climber's dotted jersey, reacts on the podium after the seventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 139.2 miles with start in Barcelona, Spain, and finish in Arcalis ski resort, Andorra, Friday July 10, 2009.

Associated Press



Michael Phelps waves from the podium after setting a world record time of 50.22 seconds in the finals of the men's 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. National Swimming Championships in Indianapolis, Thursday, July 9, 2009.

Associated Press

Croatia leads U.S. 2-0 in Davis Cup

DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press Writer

POREC, Croatia (AP) — Marin Cilic outlasted Mardy Fish in five sets to give Croatia a commanding 2-0 lead over the United States after the opening singles of their Davis Cup quarterfinal on Friday. Cilic beat Fish 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-1, 8-6 in a match that lasted 4 hours, 23 minutes and ended at 1 a.m. local time.

Much earlier, Ivo Karlovic pounded 47 aces and rallied from two sets down to beat James Blake 6-7 (5), 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 7-5 on an indoor clay court before a boisterous crowd in this Adriatic resort.

"His serve is probably the best on the tour," Blake said. "When he hits his spots, there is nothing we can do about it." The best-of-five tie resumes on Saturday with doubles and concludes with reverse singles on Sunday. The world's No. 2 doubles team, the Bryan twins, will represent the U.S. against a Croatian pair still to be determined.

"If we win doubles, as expected, we certainly have a chance" for an overall victory, said U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe. □



Cristie Kerr hits from the bunker on the second hole during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament, Friday, July 10, 2009, at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pa.

Associated Press

Kerr rides 3-birdie streak to lead at Women's Open

BOB LENTZ

Associated Press Writer

BETHLEHEM, Pennsylvania (AP) — Cristie Kerr strung together three birdies on the front nine in a round of 1-under 70 to take a one-stroke lead over Paula Creamer after two rounds of the U.S. Women's Open on Friday. Kerr overcame a bout of lightheadedness at the start and had one of only six rounds under par on the tough Saucon Valley Country Club layout, offsetting four bogeys with five birdies.

She stands at 3-under 139.

Creamer, looking for her first U.S. Women's Open title, carded a 3-under 68 after an opening 72 and was alone in second at 2-under 140. Futures Tour player Jean Reynolds was third after a 72 for a 1-under 141.

First-round leader Na Yeon Choi of South Korea shot a 3-over 74 and was tied with Giulia Sergas of Italy at even par. Sergas had the lowest round of the day, a 4-under 67.

Continued on Page B13

Phelps has sore neck, drops out of 100 free

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Michael Phelps withdrew from the 100-meter freestyle at the U.S. national championships Friday because of a sore neck.

The 14-time Olympic gold medalist was supposed to swim in the last morning heat, but he was still in pain after waking up a day earlier with a kink on the left side of his neck.

"It was worse this morning," he said.

Phelps said he swam through the pain in setting a world record in the 100 butterfly Thursday night. He received numerous treatments on his neck both Thursday and Friday.

"It wasn't fun swimming the 100 fly with that," he said. "I could barely move my neck to breathe. I definitely didn't feel 100 percent."

The 100 free, in which Phelps owns the American record, was going to be his final event at nationals. □

Gay sets year's best time in 100m at Rome

JEREMY INSON,
Associated Press Writer

ROME (AP) — Tyson Gay gave notice to world record-holder Usain Bolt by running the fastest 100 meters of the year in 9.77 seconds at the Golden Gala on Friday.

Gay swept pass previous record-holder Asafa Powell 40 meters from the finish in a time that would have been good enough to equal the world record less than two years ago.

Powell finished second in 9.88, and fellow Jamaican Yohan Blake was third with 9.96.

"I feel that I improved on the previous races," Gay said. "Today the race was better executed and my shape is improving."

"(Bolt's) in excellent shape. I was working really hard for this, but I'm still training and I feel good."

Gay is preparing to defend his 100 and 200 titles at the world championships in Berlin this summer.

He expected to be a favorite at the Beijing Olympics but a hamstring strain at the U.S. Olympic trials ended that hope, and Bolt won both gold medals in world records.

Bolt didn't race in Rome, but recorded an impressive 200 in the rain at Lausanne, Switzerland, on Tuesday, clocking 19.59.

In the women's 100, Jamaican Kerron Stewart was still in contention for a share in the \$1 million jackpot after three legs of the six-leg Golden League. Olympic silver medallist Stewart won in 10.75 ahead of Olympic champion and countrywoman Shelly-Ann Fraser, who crossed in 10.91. Third went to the Bahamas' Chandra Sturup, who finished with her season's best of 10.99.

Sanya Richards won her third Golden League meet in as many by dominating the 400 to add to her victories in Berlin and Oslo.

The American took the lead by the first bend and

increased it down the back straight. Richards conserved her energy on the final bend then accelerated to win in 49.46 seconds and beat Marita Koch's record of 36 races under 50 seconds.

"Today was a really good run, the field is getting tougher and tougher, but we missed Christine Ohuruogu (Olympic and world champion) today," Richards said.

"I was hoping to go faster than 49.2, but I will take 49.4. I have one more race in Paris, then I want to go back (to the United States) and get some hard training in (for the worlds)."

Jamaica's Sherika Williams was second with 50.31, while Ami Mbake Thiam from Senegal ran a season-best 50.71 for third.

Kenenisa Bikele kept up his quest to take a share in the golden jackpot when he won the 5,000 meters in 12:56.33.

The Olympic champion and world record-holder bided his time until the final lap, when he led a group of six. Leonard Komon of Kenya stayed close but Bikele gradually extended his lead until to enter the home straight with a comfortable gap. "It was a strong race, but it was not easier than Berlin and Oslo," he said. "I feel that my shape is improving and I am now in good form."

"In Berlin I will run the 10,000 meters and maybe I might race the 5,000 meters, but I am not sure."

The fourth athlete still in with a chance of taking a jackpot share was Elena Isinbaeva, who won the pole vault in the venue where she broke the world record a year ago.

Isinbaeva began competing only at a height of 4.75 meters, a height none of her competitors were able to clear.

After successfully clearing 4.75, she vaulted over 4.85 then failed to clear 4.95.

Fellow Russians Yuli Golubchikova and Svetlana Feofanova finished second and third respectively.

Finland's Tero Pitkamaki will not be sharing in the jackpot after finishing second to Olympic javelin champion Andrea Thorkildsen, as he did a year ago in Beijing.

Norway's Thorkildsen managed 87.46 meters, and Pitkamaki was almost four meters behind with 83.68.

Fellow Olympic champion Dayton Robles continued his buildup to the worlds in August with a win in the 110-meter hurdles in 13.17.

Also impressing were United States pair Dwight Phillips and Kerron Clement, who won the long jump and 400 hurdles respectively. □



Tyson Gay of United States, right, on his way to winning the men's 100 meters ahead of Asafa Powell of Jamaica, during the IAAF Golden Gala in Rome's Olympic stadium, Friday, July 10, 2009.

Associated Press

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NL Roundup

Pujols, Ludwick, Carpenter lead Cards past Cubs



St. Louis Cardinals' Chris Carpenter pitches against the Chicago Cubs during the first inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Friday, July 10, 2009, at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Associated Press

By RICK GANO
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Albert Pujols hit his 32nd homer, Ryan Ludwick drove in four runs and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs 8-3 on Friday in the opener of a four-game series leading into the All-Star break.

Pujols and Ludwick reached base four times apiece. Pujols added two RBIs to reach 85 and also hit his first triple of the season.

Chris Carpenter (7-3) worked six innings, allowing seven hits and three runs with six strikeouts. The Cardinals' ace improved his career record against the Cubs to 9-3, including 6-2 at Wrigley Field.

The victory put the first-place Cardinals eight games over .500 and knocked the struggling Cubs 4 1/2 games out of the lead in the NL Central.

Leading off the fifth, Pujols drove a Rich Harden pitch into the basket just atop the center field wall to put the Cardinals up 4-3.

Harden (5-6) threw 101 pitches in five innings, giving up seven hits and four runs. Aaron Heilman relieved in the sixth and the Cardinals quickly added four more runs.

St. Louis loaded the bases on a single and two walks and Ludwick delivered a two-run single that put St. Louis up 6-3.

Rick Ankiel walked to reload

the bases and the Cards got another run when Cubs' left fielder Alfonso Soriano couldn't hold Yadier Molina's shallow fly. No error was charged on the play because Soriano picked the ball up and was able to force Ankiel at second. Heilman then threw a wild pitch to allow the fourth

run to cross.

Derrek Lee's three-run homer, an opposite-field drive to the right-field bleachers, followed singles by Harden and Ryan Theriot and tied the game for Chicago at 3 in the third. It was Lee's 17th homer of the season.

Ludwick had a sacrifice fly in

the first and three singles for St. Louis.

Colby Rasmus singled to start the third and raced home when Pujols clubbed a high pitch from Harden into the left-field corner for an RBI triple. Ludwick followed with an RBI single to center.



American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, center with black helmet and his teammate and rival Alberto Contador of Spain, just behind, climb towards Arcalis during the seventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 139.2 miles with start in Barcelona, Spain, and finish in Arcalis ski resort, Andorra, Friday July 10, 2009.

Associated Press

NOCENTINI

Continued from Page B10

The Spaniard, who won the 2007 Tour, finished 3 minutes, 26 seconds after Feillu to sit six seconds behind Nocentini overall. Armstrong was 3:47 back in the main pack — putting him two seconds behind Astana teammate Contador in the standings. Contador had come into the stage in third, 19 seconds behind Cancellara and Armstrong, who had been separated by a split second. The seven-time Tour champion appeared to take it in stride.

"Overall, I feel pretty good. I'm not as knackered as I thought I'd be," he said. "Things didn't quite go according to plan that we set up earlier, but it didn't matter. It was a fine day overall."

In the final ascent, Armstrong found himself hugging the

wheel of Australia's Cadel Evans, who briefly attacked Armstrong and Contador.

"When you've got a rider away, my obligation is to the team," Armstrong said. "I had to stay on his wheel. You just got to stay on his wheel."

"That's not my specialty, but it's not bad at all — all things considered," he added.

Nocentini and Feillu were part of a nine-man breakaway group that jumped out early in the stage, and the main pre-race favorites were happy to let the escapees go because they aren't considered as threats for the overall title.

"It's a nice victory," said Feillu, a 23-year-old riding in his first Tour. He fled the breakaway group about halfway up the final ascent into Arcalis.

"It really makes me happy," said Feillu, an Agritubel rider.

Christophe Kern of France was second, 5 seconds back, while Johannes Froehlinger of Germany was third, 25 seconds behind.

Feillu was hugged in the winner's circle by his older brother Romain, who wore the yellow jersey for a day last year.

"I had confidence in him. I knew it, I knew it, I knew it," said Romain Feillu, with tears in his eyes.

Nocentini, a 31-year-old with the AG2R-La Mondiale team who won a stage in Pasadena in the Tour of California this year, came into the stage trailing Cancellara by 3:13. He became the first Italian to wear the yellow jersey at the Tour since Alberto Elli in 2000. The Italian finished the stage in fourth place, 26 seconds behind Feillu. Cancellara tumbled out of the top rankings, crossing the finish 9:16 after Feillu in 67th place.

The 224-kilometer trek from Barcelona to the Andorran ski resort of Arcalis was the longest stage this Tour. Competitors scaled the category 1 Serra-Seca pass, before the climb into Arcalis that is one of the toughest ascents in pro cycling.

Riders embark on two more days in the Pyrenees before a rest day Monday. Saturday's stage is a 109.7-mile ride along three hard climbs from Andorra-la-Vieille in Andorra to Saint-Girons, in France.

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WOMEN'S OPEN

Continued from Page B10

Top-ranked Lorena Ochoa struggled to a round of 8-over 79 and stood at 6-over for the championship.

The final two rounds will be spiced with a bit of old and new. Former champion Laura Davies, playing on a special exemption, made the cut, as did 14-year-old amateur Alexis Thompson, who was in contention after a 73 put her at 2-over and tied for eighth.

The focus on Friday was back on golf, a marked change after the event was overshadowed all week by a dispute between some U.S. LPGA Tour players and commissioner Carolyn Bivens. On Thursday, reports surfaced saying Bivens could be out of her job as early as next week after more than a dozen players signed a letter calling for her resignation.

A day later, the narrow fairways and speedy undulating greens at the Old Course demanded the players' attention as the cut line fell at 9 over.

Not feeling her best at the start, Kerr opened with a bogey and four pars. She began feeling better on the 13th — she started on the back nine — and hit stride on the 15th through 17th.

Kerr rolled in putts of 9, 3 and 8 feet for her run of birdies and, after a pair of bogeys to open her back nine, made birdie putts of 15 and 12 feet on the way in to maintain the lead.

Creamer was coming off a thumb injury that forced her to miss the last two tournaments but there was no sign the sore thumb was affecting her play at Saucon Valley.

She started the day 1 over, and moved into red numbers after back-to-back birdies at the ninth and 10th. Her round included five birdies, two bogeys and 11 pars, good enough for sole possession of second, her best standing after two rounds in an Open. Reynolds continued to be the surprise of the event. A two-time winner this year on the Futures Tour — and its leading money winner — she



Lorena Ochoa, of Mexico, acknowledges the gallery after putting out on the 18th hole during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament, Friday, July 10, 2009, at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pa.

Associated Press
hung tough in just her second Women's Open.

Reynolds overcame hitting just nine of 14 fairways to give herself a shot at the championship.

Davies followed an opening 72 with a 75 and is at 5-over, tied for 28th. She won the 1987 Open, beating Ayako Okamoto and JoAnne Carner in an 18-hole playoff for her first professional victory. She has played in every Open since 1986.

The 20-time U.S. LPGA Tour winner's last victory came in 2001, at the Wegman's Rochester International. She has struggled on tour this year, making the cut in five of 10 tournaments, with her best finish a tie for 33rd at Phoenix in March.

Davies has been inconsistent at the U.S. Women's Open, too. She has missed the cut in eight of the last 12 championships and last played the weekend in 2007, when she tied for 32nd. She does have eight top-15 finishes Thompson made the cut for the first time in three tries, following an even-par 71 with a 2-over 73. But her 2-over 144 score not only made the cut by seven strokes, it left her in contention for the title two years after she became the youngest player ever to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open.

Among the players missing the cut were: Se Ri Pak (11 over), 49-year-old Rosie Jones (12 over) and two-time champion Meg Mallon (18 over). □

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Jefe de asamblea ONU ve pronta reposición de hondureño Zelaya

NACIONES UNIDAS (Reuters) - El presidente de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, Miguel D'Escoto, dijo el viernes que pensaba que la solución podría estar cerca para reinstaurar al derrocado presidente de Honduras Manuel Zelaya.

“He oído que podríamos estar muy cerca de una solución para la restitución del presidente Zelaya”, dijo en una conferencia de prensa D'Escoto, un político nicaragüense de izquierda que acompañó al derrocado líder en una fallida misión de regreso a Honduras el domingo.

D'Escoto expresó su optimismo por una solución pese al hecho de que no han habido señales públicas de un acuerdo. Zelaya y el hombre que lo reemplazó tras el golpe de Estado del 28 de junio, Roberto Micheletti, no han alcanzado un acuerdo y ni siquiera se reunieron durante las negociaciones de mediación realizadas el jueves en Costa Rica.

D'Escoto dijo que su percepción estaba basada en “conversaciones”, pero se negó a dar más detalles. “Tengo la impresión de que nos estamos moviendo en la dirección correcta rápidamente. Podría estar equivocado, pero espero que no”, señaló.

“Tengo confianza en que llegaremos a una solución muy pronto. Por pronto quiero decir unos pocos días. Una semana es pronto, pero creo que será incluso antes”, agregó. (Reporte de Anupreet Das; escrito por Patrick Worsnip; Editado en español por Marion Giraldo) □



El presidente de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, Miguel D'Escoto (izquierda en la imagen), durante una conferencia del derrocado presidente de Honduras Manuel Zelaya en la sede del organismo en Nueva York, 30 jun 2009. REUTERS/Jamie Fine

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Open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, this popular restaurant has an exciting menu with an energetic vibe which includes not only a lengthy roster of Fresh Fish but crusty Paninis, Gyros and an 8oz grouper burger which promises to be grilled to perfection. More choices like Tataki, creamy Risotto and diverse Seafood Tapas round out the eclectic menu served by Hadicurari's exceptional staff.

Seal the evening with a kiss, with the Restaurant's signature drink, Sunchi (kiss in our local language). Designer coffees, after dinner drinks and cordials join the offering in the impressive Premium Bar.

www.hadicurari.com - Phone: 586-2288

Open daily from 8am - 11pm

Located next to Marriot's Surf Club



Café the Plaza

Café the Plaza
(at Renaissance Marketplace, Downtown)
International Cuisine
Phone: 583-8826
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live music.
A Dutch style restaurant with moderate prices
Open from
10.00 am - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.cafetheplaza.com



Tango Argentine Grill
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Charcoal Grill
Phone: 586-8600
Dinner and Daily Live Music. World famous Argentine beef prepared on open charcoal grill.
Open from
5.00 pm - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.tangoaruba.com



Salt & Pepper
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Tapas
Phone: 586-3280
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Daily Live music by local artists and bands on our large terrace.
Open from
8.00 am - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.saltandpepperaruba.com



MooMba Beach
(between Holiday Inn & Marriott Surf Club)
International Cuisine
Phone: 586-5365
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live Music.
Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach. Open from
7.00 am - 11.00 pm
Bar open from
10.00 am - 01.00 am
www.moombabeach.com



Sopranos Piano Bar
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
Bar with Live Entertainment
Phone: 586-8622
Extensive Cocktail menu. Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along! Open from
5.00 pm - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.sopranospianobar.com



Matilde Restaurant
(Downtown)
International Cuisine
AAA/4 Diamond Award
Phone: 583-9200
Lunch and Dinner
A refined dining experience.
Restaurant open from
11.30 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.matildearuba.com



Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill
(Royal Plaza Downtown)
International & Latin Cuisine
Phone: 583-3632
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week. Restaurant open from
11.00 am - 09.00 pm,
Bar open from
11.00 am - 04.00 am
www.mambojamboaruba.com



Hadicurari Restaurant
(between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)
International and Seafood Cuisine
Phone: 586-2288
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
'Seafood with a view'
Restaurant open from
8.00 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.hadicurari.com



WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM

